## 15 Words 15c % Farmer Classified Ads % Phone 1208



Which," said Johnny shrewdly, "Is

was exidently prosperous and business on a much larger scale to the old place, for in his comious building were quantities of a displayed and many barrels and still unopened. He did not recus of course, and we had to the completion of a tale he was a group perched on the counters a the boxes.

the boxes.

It turned into the entrance of the it to find outselves in the well respect the evening a few months are. It was now furnished with a the filmsy partitions had been ked out, and evidently additions had out and evidently additions. cen constructed beyond the vari-osed doors.

man behind the bar looked

familiar to me, but I could not

bere's the proprietor of this?" I saked him.
Indicated a short, blowsy, trucubing individual who was at the mi staring out the window.

The bear of the same of th

and an he turned to attend to a

He found the elimate had for his art and sold sutt said be.
On the wall opposite was posted a maker of printed and written handlis. We stopped idly to examine im. They had in general to do with property, stolen horses and reside for the apprehension of various livingly. One struck us in particulation is was issued by a citizens' confidence of Sau Francisco and announced general suward for the capture of member of the "Hounds." er of the "Hounds."

down there," Johnny observed.

To you know, I saw one of those this afternoon—perhaps you make him a man with a queer of him agar over one cheekbone. our chance to make some mon

etor of the hotel turned to at Johnny curiously, and several passionately.

Johnny stared at him, puzzled.

"Hald on!" he called after a

at the instant the door

demonstration, jerked his two as from their holsters. With and he backed the center of the and thrust the muzzles beneath and thrust the muzzles beneath illy's nose. His black eyes were ut ep, you 'Hound!" he said in a

o make money out of your mis-curcass, except at a glue fac-and if you or your friends so as wink an eyelld I'll put you spe for it." d" stared fascinated into the

barrels, his jaw dropped, his selder than ever, his eyes ridicu-protruding. I had recovered my and had backed against the briboard, a revolver in either hand, Those who had burst in with bully had stopped frozen in their not particularly excited.

Tm going to stay in this camp,"
huny advised crisply, "and I'm not
oing to be bothered by big bluffs like
bu. I warn you, and all like you, to
the alone and keep away from me
tag is eamp, or you can leave just as you please, but I warn that I shoot you next time I lay on you. Now, about face voice had an edge of steel

urned slowly and sneaked out the His tellowers shambled toward bar. Johnny, passed them rather emptuously under the review of snapping eyes, and they shambled

is tore. Johany." I cried when we reached the street, "that was fine! Mark him w you had it in you!" What a stupid, useless mess!" he the room I saw we were let in for

ato it."
It containly recomm," said If
But it that state as all wrong

here," complained Johnny. "We are

marked men." We went out to see Yank, with the full intention of spending the evening and cheering him up. He was dozing, restless, waking and sleeping by fits and starts. We sat around in the awkward fashion peculiar to very young boys in the sickroom, and then, to our vast relief, were shoved out by Senors Morena. With her we held a whisper ed conversation outside, and comp satisfactory arrangements for Yank's keep. She was a chuckling, easy going, motherly sort of creature, and we were very lucky to have her. Then we returned in the gathering dusk to our camp under the trees across the

A man rose from a seat against a "Good evenin', stranger," said he.

"Good evening," responded Johnny "You are the man who stuck up Scarface Charley in Morton's place, ain't

"What's that to you?" replied John-ay. "Are you a friend of his?" His habitual air of young carelessness had fallen from him. His eye was stendy and frosty, his face set in stern lines. Before my wondering eyes he had grown ten years older in the last six hours. The other was lounging toward us—a short, slight man, with faxen moustache and eyebrows, a colorless face, pale blue eyes and a baid forehead from which the hat had been pushed back. He was chewing a

"Well, I was just inquirin' in a friendly sort of way." replied the new-

comer peaceably.
"I don't know you," stated Johnny shortly, "nor who you're friends to, nor your camp. I deny your right to ask questions. Good night."
"Well, good night," agreed the other,

still peaceable. "I reckon I gather coniderable about you, anyhow." He turned away. "I had a notion from what I heard that you was sort of picked on, and I dropped round sort of friendly like, but Lord love you! I don't care how many of you desperadoes kill each other. Go to it, and good riddauce!" He east his pale blue eyes on Johnny's rigid figure. "Also go to the dickens!" he remarked dis-

ment. "Then you're not a friend of



Where's the blamed cur that is go-ing to make some money out of ar-resting me?" he roared.

"Me? What are you talking about?"

He looked from one to the other of us, then returned the few steps he had "I believe you don't know me. I'm Randall, Danny Randall." 'Yes?" puzzled Johnny. "Of Sonoma," added Rendall.

"I suppose I should know you, I'm afraid I don't," confessed Johnny. Randall turned back to the tree be neath which lay our effects. "I believe I'll just have a cup of cot

fee with you boys," said he. We blew up the fire, scoured the fry ing pan, made ourselves food. Randall brought a pail of water. We all ate together, without much conversation, then lit our pipes and piled on dry wood to make a brighter friendship

"Now, boys," said Randall, "I'm going to ask you some questions, and you can answer me or not, just as you please. Only I'll say its isn't just curi-

Johnny, who was studying him cov-ertly from beneath the shadow of his hat, nodded briefly, but said nothing. "How long have you been in the "Since March."

"Since March!" echoed Randall, as though a little bewildered at this reply. "Yet you never heard- What

Johnny studied awhile.
"Hangman's Gulch for six weeks," said he, "then just prospecting."

"I don't believe I'll answer that ques-

tion," replied Johnny slowly. "But somewhere back in the hills?" persisted Randall. "Somewhere back in the hills," agreed

Johnny. "Seems to me"- I broke in, but Johnny silenced me with a gesture. He was watching Randall intently and

"Then you have been out of it for three months or so. That explains it. Now, I don't mind telling you I came up here this evening to size you up. I heard about your row with Scarface Charley, and I wanted to see whether you were just another fighting desperado or an honest man. Well, I'm satisfied. I'm not going to ask you if you have much gold with you, for you wouldn't tell me, but if you have keep It with you. If you don't you'll lose it. Keep in the middle of the road and out of dark places. This is a tough camp, but there are a lot of us good men, too, and my business is to get us all to know each other. Things are getting bad, and we've got to get together. That's why I came up to see you. Are you handy with a gun?"

"Fair," said Johnny. "You need to be. Let's see if you are. Stand up. Try to get the draw on me. Now!"

asked abruptly.

CHAPTER XX.

Johnny Gets Pistol Lesson. OHNNY reached for his pistol, but before his hand was fairly on the butt Randall had thrust the muzzle of a small revolver berleath his nose. His pale blue eyes had lit with concentration, his bleached evelwows were drawn together. For an instant the thought flashed across my mind that this was a genuine holdup, and I am sure Johnny



Randall Had Thrust the Muzzle of Small Revolver Beneath His Nose.

caught the same suspicion, for his figure stiffened. Then Randall dropped his hand.

"Very pretty," said Johnny coolly. "How did you do that? I didn't catch your motion."

"From the sleeve," said Randall.
"It's difficult, but it's pretty, as you say, and if you learn to draw from the sleeve I'll guarantee you'll get the

"Show me," said Johnny simply. "That gun of yours is too big. It's a holster weapon. Here, take this." He handed Johnny a beautifully balsinced small revolver, engraved and silver plated, with polished resewood handle. This he showed Johnny how to stow away in the sleeve, how to arrange it, how to grasp it and the exact motion in snatching it away.

"It takes practice, lots of it and then nore of it," said Randall. "It's worse than useless unless you get it just right. If you made a mistake at the wrong time the other man would get you sure."

"Where can I get one of these?" asked Johnny

"Good!" Randall approved his decision. "You see the necessity. You can't. But a derringer is about as good, and Jones has them for sale. Now as for your holster gun. The whole trick of quick drawing is to throw your right shoulder forward and drag the gun from the holster with one forward sweep. Don't lift it up and out. This way." He snapped his hand past his hip and brought it away "Pretty," repeated Johnny.

"Don't waste much powder and ball shooting at a mark," advised Randall. "It looks nice to cut out the ace of

hearts at ten yards, but it doesn't mean much. If you can shoot at all you can shoot straight enough to hit a man at close range. Practice the draw." He turned to me. "You'd better practice too. Every man's got to take care of himself these days. But you're not due for trouble same as your friend is." "I'm obliged to you," said Johnny. "You are not. Now it's up to you.

I judged you didn't know condition here, and I thought it only right to warn you. There's lots of good fellows in this camp, and some of the hard cases are a pretty good sort. Just keep organized; that's gil."

"Now, I wonder who Danny Randall is?" speculated Johnny after our visitor had departed. "He talked as though we ought to know all about it. I'm going to find out from the first fellow I get acquainted with." Next morning we asked the Morenas

who was Danny Randall. "El diabolo," replied Morena shortly and trudged obstinately away to his work without vouchsafing further information.

Which is interesting, but indefinite," said Johnny.

(To Be Continued.)

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